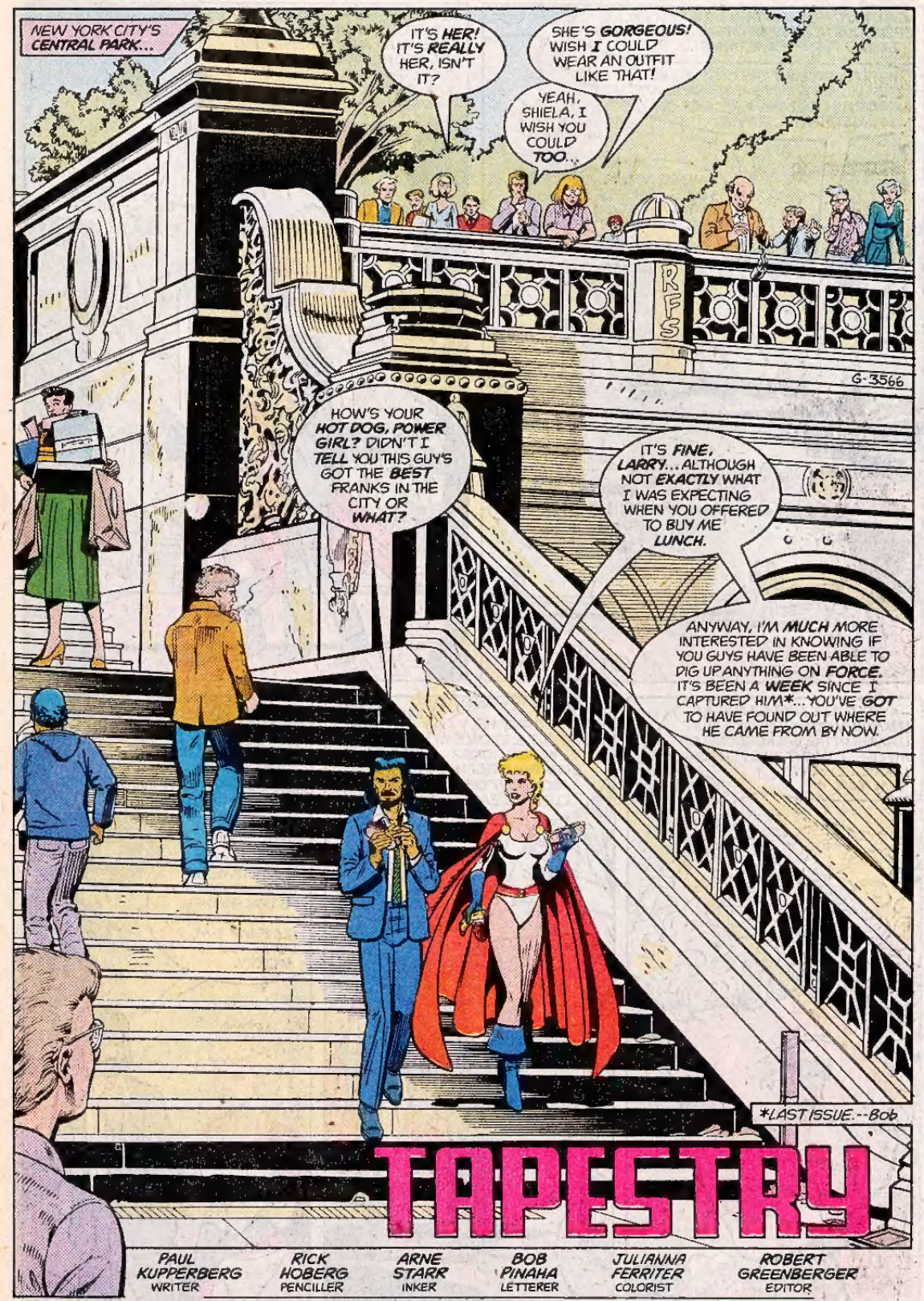
KUPPERBERG·HOBERG·STARR

POWER GIRL™

FOUR ISSUE MINI-SERIES

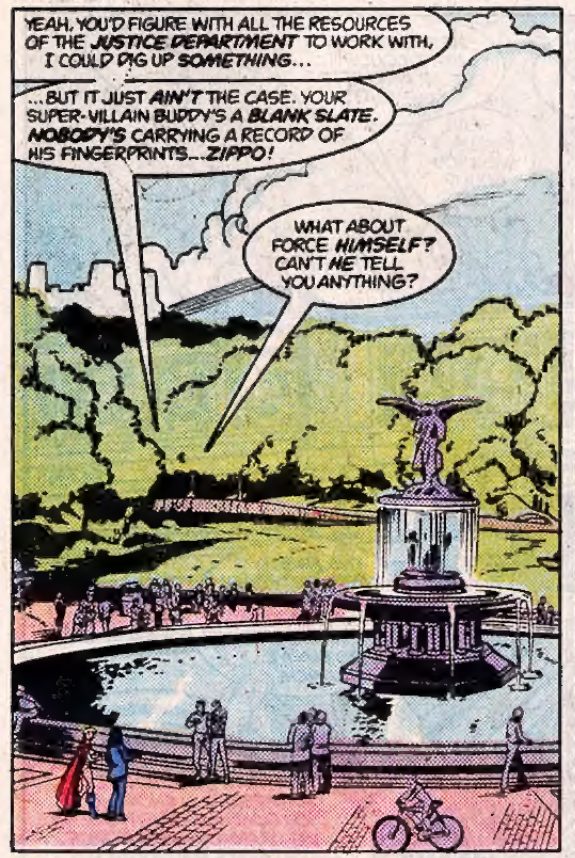
2
$1.00
CAN. $1.35
U.K. 50p
JULY 88

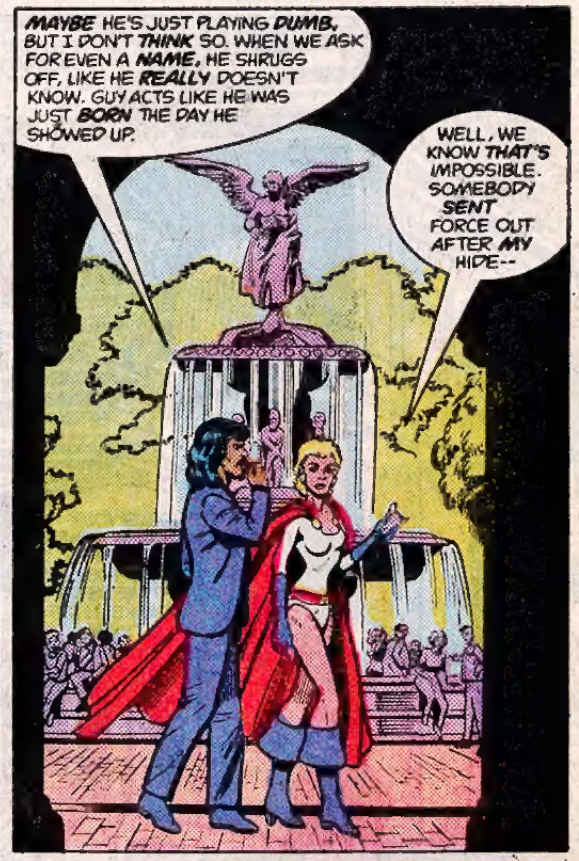
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY



PAUL KUPPERBERG WRITER | RICK HOBERG PENCILLER | ARNE STARR INKER | BOB PINAHA LETTERER | JULIANNA FERRITER COLORIST | ROBERT GREENBERGER EDITOR

POWER GIRL 2 Published monthly and Copyright © 1988 by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company


YEAH, YOU'D FIGURE WITH ALL THE RESOURCES OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH, I COULD DIG UP SOMETHING...
...BUT IT JUST AIN'T THE CASE. YOUR SUPER-VILLAIN BUDDY'S A BLANK SLATE. NOBODY'S CARRYING A RECORD OF HIS FINGERPRINTS...ZIPPO!
WHAT ABOUT FORCE HIMSELF? CAN'T ME TELL YOU ANYTHING?


MAYBE HE'S JUST PLAYING DUMB, BUT I DON'T THINK SO. WHEN WE ASK FOR EVEN A NAME, HE SHRUGS OFF, LIKE HE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW. GUY ACTS LIKE HE WAS JUST BORN THE DAY HE SHOWED UP.
WELL, WE KNOW THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SOMEBODY SENT FORCE OUT AFTER MY HIDE--

--AND I DON'T LIKE HAVING AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY LIKE THAT LURKING IN THE BACKGROUND OF MY LIFE. I WANT THIS PERSON, LARRY... I WANT HIM BAD.

YOU AND ME BOTH, P.G. PROBLEM IS, WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE. I'M ABOUT OUT OF CLEVER IDEAS.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A MAN ADMITTING DEFEAT, MR. GONZALES. YOU'RE NOT GIVING UP, ARE YOU?

HELL, NO! I'M JUST SAYING I HATE WHEN THIS HAPPENS.
FORCE EXISTS AND THAT MEANS THERE'VE GOT TO BE TRACES OF HIM. SOMEWHERE. I'LL FIND 'EM, DON'T YOU WORRY.

WORRYING ABOUT IT IS ALL I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO ALL WEEK. I KEEP EXPECTING SOMETHING ELSE TO POP OUT OF NOWHERE LIKE FORCE DID AND MAKE MY LIFE MISERABLE.

I JUST WANT TO SOLVE THIS AND GET ON WITH MY LIFE..

SIGH! I HATE SOUNDING LIKE ANOTHER CIVIL SERVANT... BUT WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN.

I KNOW, LARRY, AND I APPRECIATE IT, REALLY.

LOOK AT THE TIME. I'VE REALLY GOT TO GET BACK TO THE OFFICE.

SURE THING, P.G. KEEP IN TOUCH IN CASE I COME UP WITH ANYTHING, OKAY?

WILL DO. THANKS, LARRY. I'LL BE TALKING TO YOU. 'BYE!

HUH? DID SHE JUST SAY SHE HAD TO GET BACK TO...

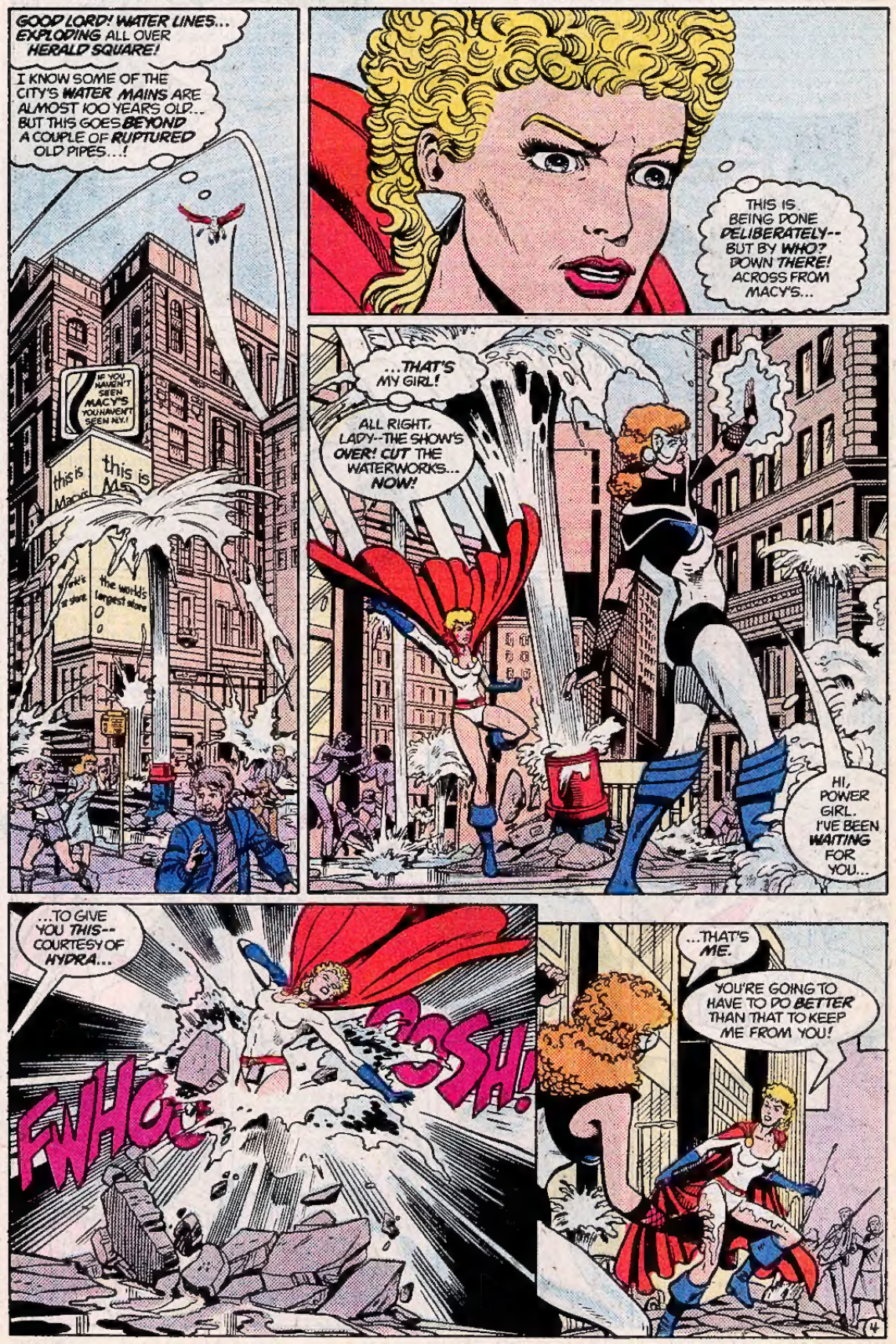
"...THE OFFICE?"

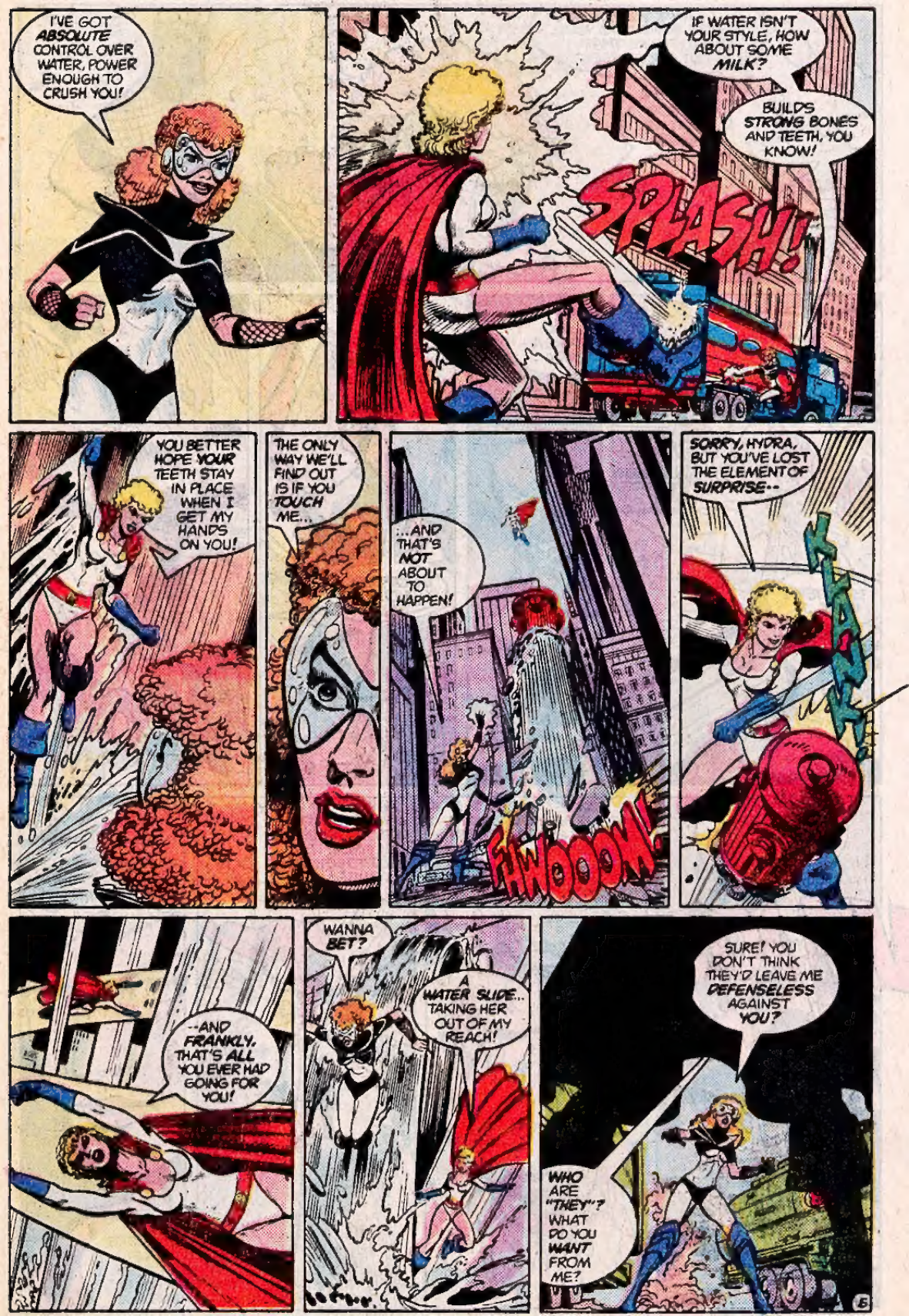
I COULDN'T TELL LARRY, BUT FORCE ISN'T THE ONLY THING ON MY MIND... I'VE BEEN ON THE GO ALMOST NON-STOP AS POWER GIRL ALL WEEK...

...AND I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT ALL THE HASSLES I'M HAVING AS KAREN STARR.

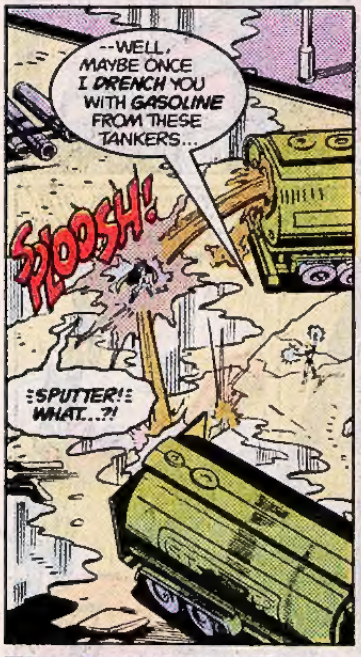
MY BUSINESS IS GOING TO PIECES AROUND ME... AND EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND, ANOTHER OF MY FRIENDS SEEMS TO DEVELOP NEW PROBLEMS. I'M STARTING TO FEEL JINXED. I... HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

THWA-BOOM!


GOOD LORD! WATER LINES... EXPLODING ALL OVER HERALD SQUARE!
I KNOW SOME OF THE CITY'S WATER MAINS ARE ALMOST 100 YEARS OLD... BUT THIS GOES BEYOND A COUPLE OF RUPTURED OLD PIPES...!
IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN MACY'S YOU HAVEN'T SEEN NY.!
this is Macy's
this is Macy's
New York's a store
the world's largest store
THIS IS BEING DONE DELIBERATELY-- BUT BY WHO? DOWN THERE! ACROSS FROM MACY'S...
...THAT'S MY GIRL!
ALL RIGHT, LADY--THE SHOW'S OVER! CUT THE WATERWORKS... NOW!
HI, POWER GIRL. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
...TO GIVE YOU THIS-- COURTESY OF HYDRA...
FWHOOO
SSSH!
...THAT'S ME.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT TO KEEP ME FROM YOU!
4

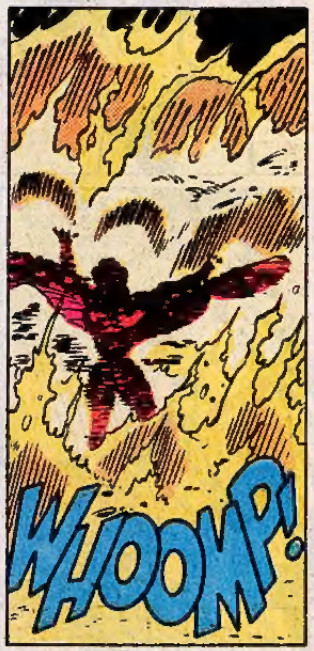

I'VE GOT ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER WATER, POWER ENOUGH TO CRUSH YOU!
IF WATER ISN'T YOUR STYLE, HOW ABOUT SOME MILK?
BUILDS STRONG BONES AND TEETH, YOU KNOW!
SPLASH!
YOU BETTER HOPE YOUR TEETH STAY IN PLACE WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON YOU!
THE ONLY WAY WE'LL FIND OUT IS IF YOU TOUCH ME...
...AND THAT'S NOT ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
FWOOOOM!
SORRY, HYDRA, BUT YOU'VE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE--
KLANK
--AND FRANKLY, THAT'S ALL YOU EVER HAD GOING FOR YOU!
WANNA BET?
A WATER SLIDE... TAKING HER OUT OF MY REACH!
SURE! YOU DON'T THINK THEY'D LEAVE ME DEFENSELESS AGAINST YOU?
WHO ARE "THEY"? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
6

OH, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHO THEY ARE, POWER GIRL. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGURE THAT OUT FOR YOURSELF.
AS FOR WHAT WE WANT--


--WELL, MAYBE ONCE I DRENCH YOU WITH GASOLINE FROM THESE TANKERS...
SLOOSH!
SPUTTER! WHAT...?!

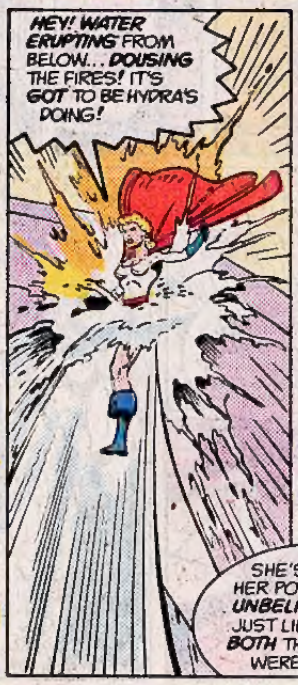
...AND STRIKE A SPARK...

...MAYBE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GUESS!
GOOD LORD! NO!
KLINGK!


WHOOMP!

MY GOD! THE TANKERS ARE BLOWING... AND THEY'RE STILL IN THERE--!
VROOM!

THE FLAMES CAN'T HURT ME, BUT THEY'RE SPREADING FAST! I'VE GOT TO CONTAIN THEM BEFORE...


HEY! WATER ERUPTING FROM BELOW... DOUSING THE FIRES! IT'S GOT TO BE HYDRA'S DOING!

SHE'S GONE! HER POWERS WERE UNBELIEVABLE... JUST LIKE FORCE'S. BOTH THEIR POWERS WERE UNREAL...

"...AND THE WAY THEY CAME AND WENT. LIKE MAGIC...!"

THERE, GIRL... IT'S COME TO YOU AT LAST!

AHHH, BUT YOU DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT YOU MUST KNOW DEEP WITHIN YOU IS THE TRUTH. WHO BELIEVES IN MAGIC IN THIS DAY AND AGE?!

SURELY NOT THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF AN ATLANTEAN SORCERER! HA HA HA!

BUT 'TIS MAGIC. MY MAGIC, SENT TO TURN YOUR LIFE TO MISERY... 'ERE I DESTROY IT FOREVER!

KAREN! YOU'VE GOT DOZENS OF CALLS...

KAREN! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

ER... HI, EVERYBODY.

WE'VE HIT A MAJOR BUG IN THE PROGRAM FOR...

...THE DATA SPREADSHEET PROGRAM. YOU'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK, KAREN.

CAN'T YOU GUYS HANDLE IT?

OF COURSE WE CAN, BUT YOU'RE THE BOSS, AND THIS COULD GET COMPLICATED...

...SO YOU OUGHT TO SHARE IN THE AGGRAVATION. NOW, COME ON!

MIKE! MICKI! WAIT! I'VE...

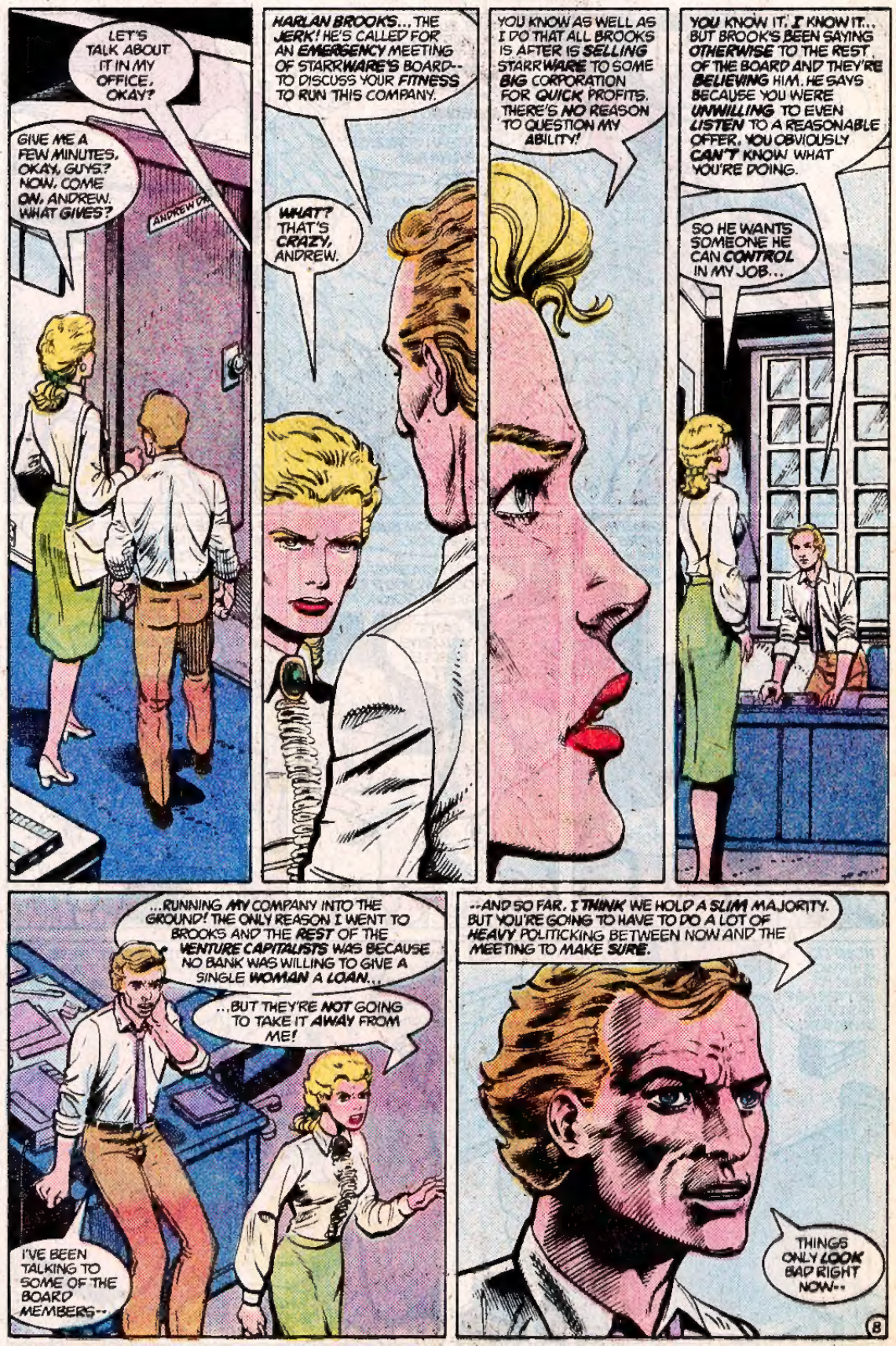
HOLD IT, YOU TWO! I THINK I'D BETTER GET FIRST DIBS ON KAREN.

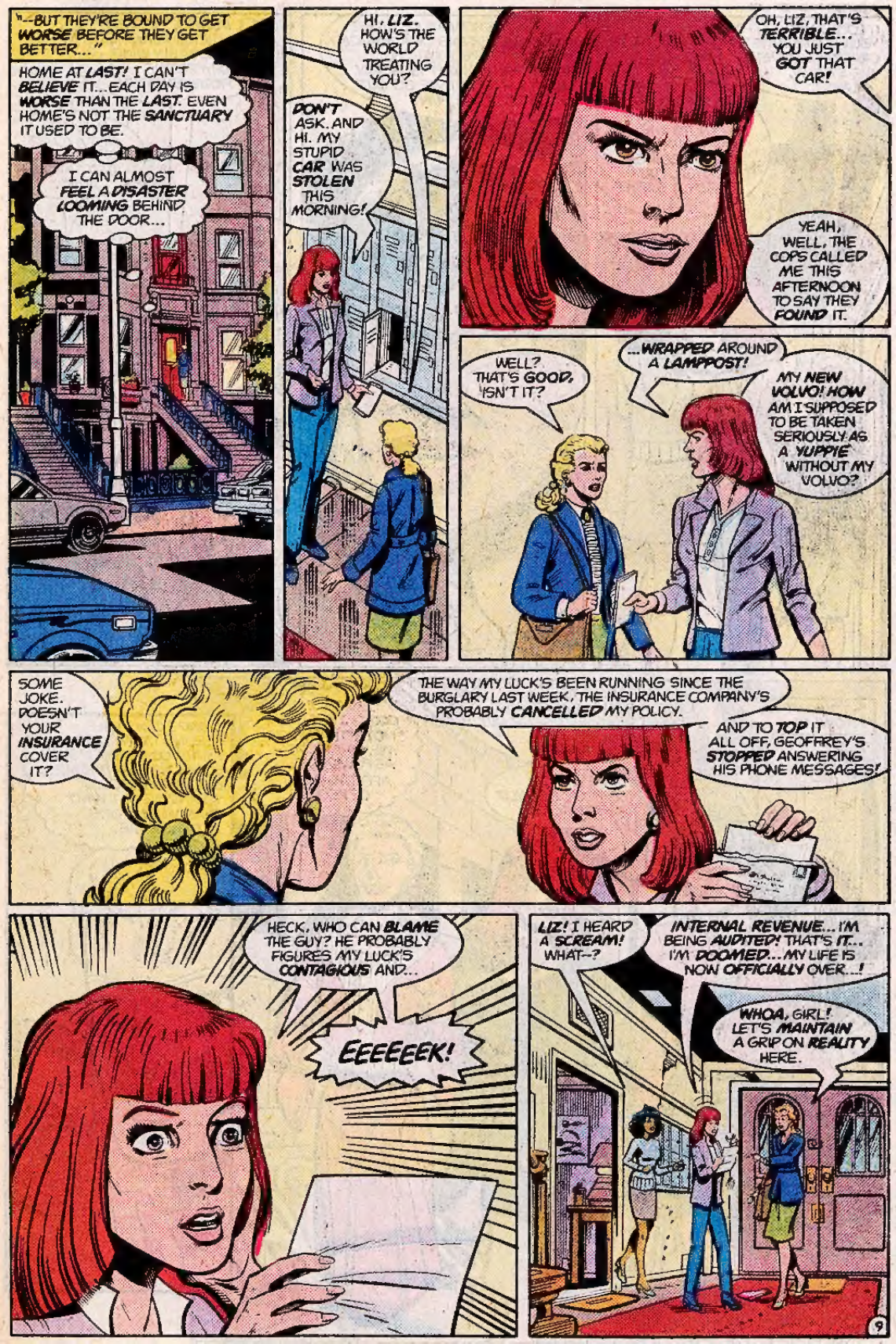
SORRY, MR. DRAPER, BUT WE GOT HER FIRST...

...AND OUR WORK'S IMPORTANT TO THE COMPANY.

SO'S THIS. MATTER OF FACT, THERE MIGHT NOT BE A COMPANY IF WE DON'T HANDLE THIS NOW.

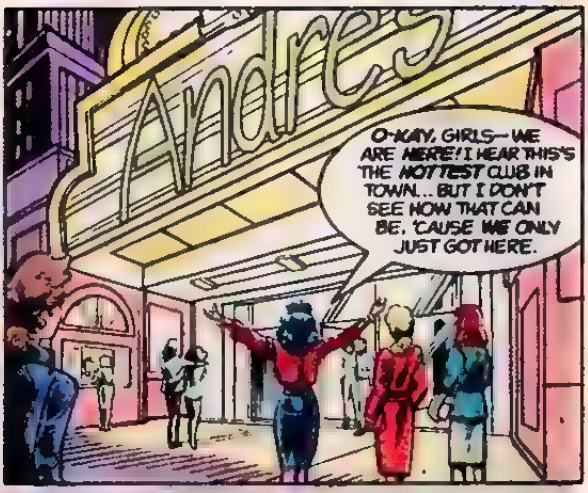
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ANDREW?

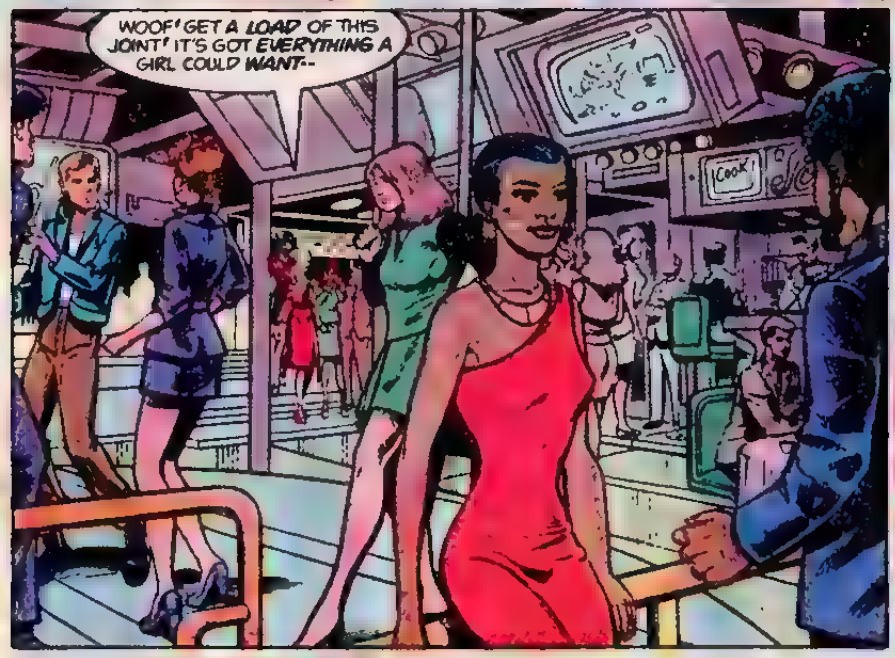

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT IN MY OFFICE, OKAY?
GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES, OKAY, GUYS? NOW, COME ON, ANDREW. WHAT GIVES?
ANDREW OR
HARLAN BROOK'S... THE JERK! HE'S CALLED FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF STARRWARE'S BOARD-- TO DISCUSS YOUR FITNESS TO RUN THIS COMPANY.
WHAT? THAT'S CRAZY, ANDREW.
YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT ALL BROOKS IS AFTER IS SELLING STARRWARE TO SOME BIG CORPORATION FOR QUICK PROFITS. THERE'S NO REASON TO QUESTION MY ABILITY!
YOU KNOW IT. I KNOW IT... BUT BROOK'S BEEN SAYING OTHERWISE TO THE REST OF THE BOARD AND THEY'RE BELIEVING HIM. HE SAYS BECAUSE YOU WERE UNWILLING TO EVEN LISTEN TO A REASONABLE OFFER, YOU OBVIOUSLY CAN'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
SO HE WANTS SOMEONE HE CAN CONTROL IN MY JOB...
...RUNNING MY COMPANY INTO THE GROUND! THE ONLY REASON I WENT TO BROOKS AND THE REST OF THE VENTURE CAPITALISTS WAS BECAUSE NO BANK WAS WILLING TO GIVE A SINGLE WOMAN A LOAN...
...BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME!
I'VE BEEN TALKING TO SOME OF THE BOARD MEMBERS--
--AND SO FAR, I THINK WE HOLD A SLIM MAJORITY. BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO A LOT OF HEAVY POLITICKING BETWEEN NOW AND THE MEETING TO MAKE SURE.
THINGS ONLY LOOK BAD RIGHT NOW--


"--BUT THEY'RE BOUND TO GET WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER..."
HOME AT LAST! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...EACH DAY IS WORSE THAN THE LAST. EVEN HOME'S NOT THE SANCTUARY IT USED TO BE.
I CAN ALMOST FEEL A DISASTER LOOMING BEHIND THE DOOR...
HI, LIZ. HOW'S THE WORLD TREATING YOU?
DON'T ASK. AND HI. MY STUPID CAR WAS STOLEN THIS MORNING!
OH, LIZ, THAT'S TERRIBLE... YOU JUST GOT THAT CAR!
YEAH, WELL, THE COPS CALLED ME THIS AFTERNOON TO SAY THEY FOUND IT.
WELL? THAT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
...WRAPPED AROUND A LAMPPOST!
MY NEW VOLVO! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS A YUPPIE WITHOUT MY VOLVO?
SOME JOKE. DOESN'T YOUR INSURANCE COVER IT?
THE WAY MY LUCK'S BEEN RUNNING SINCE THE BURGLARY LAST WEEK, THE INSURANCE COMPANY'S PROBABLY CANCELLED MY POLICY.
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, GEOFFREY'S STOPPED ANSWERING HIS PHONE MESSAGES!
HECK, WHO CAN BLAME THE GUY? HE PROBABLY FIGURES MY LUCK'S CONTAGIOUS AND...
EEEEEEK!
LIZ! I HEARD A SCREAM! WHAT--?
INTERNAL REVENUE...I'M BEING AUDITED! THAT'S IT... I'M DOOMED...MY LIFE IS NOW OFFICIALLY OVER...!
WHOA, GIRL! LET'S MAINTAIN A GRIP ON REALITY HERE.
9

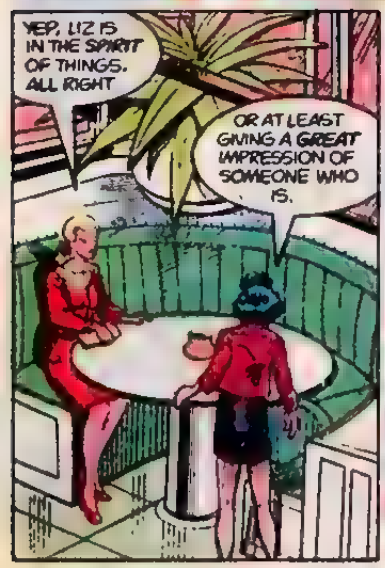
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR ROOMMATE'S CRACKING UNDER THE STRAIN, CARRIE.
I'M SURPRISED WE DON'T ALL GO NUTS THE WAY THING S'VE BEEN GOING. LISTEN, I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA ..
...SEEING AS HOW WE'RE THREE WOMEN DESERVING OF A MAJOR BREAK IN THE RELAXATION DEPARTMENT, AND IT IS FRIDAY NIGHT, WHY DON'T WE GO OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN?
I DUNNO. THE WAY MY LUCK'S RUNNING, I'D PROBABLY WIND UP MEETING FRANKENSTEIN...
AND I'VE GOT A LOAD OF WORK TO GET THROUGH AND...
NO EXCUSES, LADIES--
"--TONIGHT WE PROWL!"
HUH? WHAT'D I TELL YOU, KIDS? IT FEELS GREAT JUST TO GET DRESSED UP AND OUT OF THE HOUSE. AM I RIGHT OR WHAT?
WELL... I SUPPOSE I COULD GET INTO IT.
I WISH I COULD .. BUT IT'S NOT SO EASY FOR ME. WHAT I DO AS POWER GIRL AFFECTS A LOT OF PEOPLE...
...AND I CAN'T HELP FEELING I'M FAILING. HYDRA CONFIRMED THAT SOMEONE'S AFTER ME... BUT I'M NO CLOSER TO FINDING OUT WHO THAN WHEN FORCE ATTACKED ME.

I SHOULD BE OUT LOOKING... DOING SOMETHING...
...ONLY I DON'T KNOW WHAT. SO I OUGHT TO JUST RELAX AND ENJOY MYSELF, RIGHT?
YEAH. RIGHT!


Andre's
O-KAY, GIRLS— WE ARE HERE! I HEAR THIS'S THE HOTTEST CLUB IN TOWN... BUT I DON'T SEE HOW THAT CAN BE, 'CAUSE WE ONLY JUST GOT HERE.

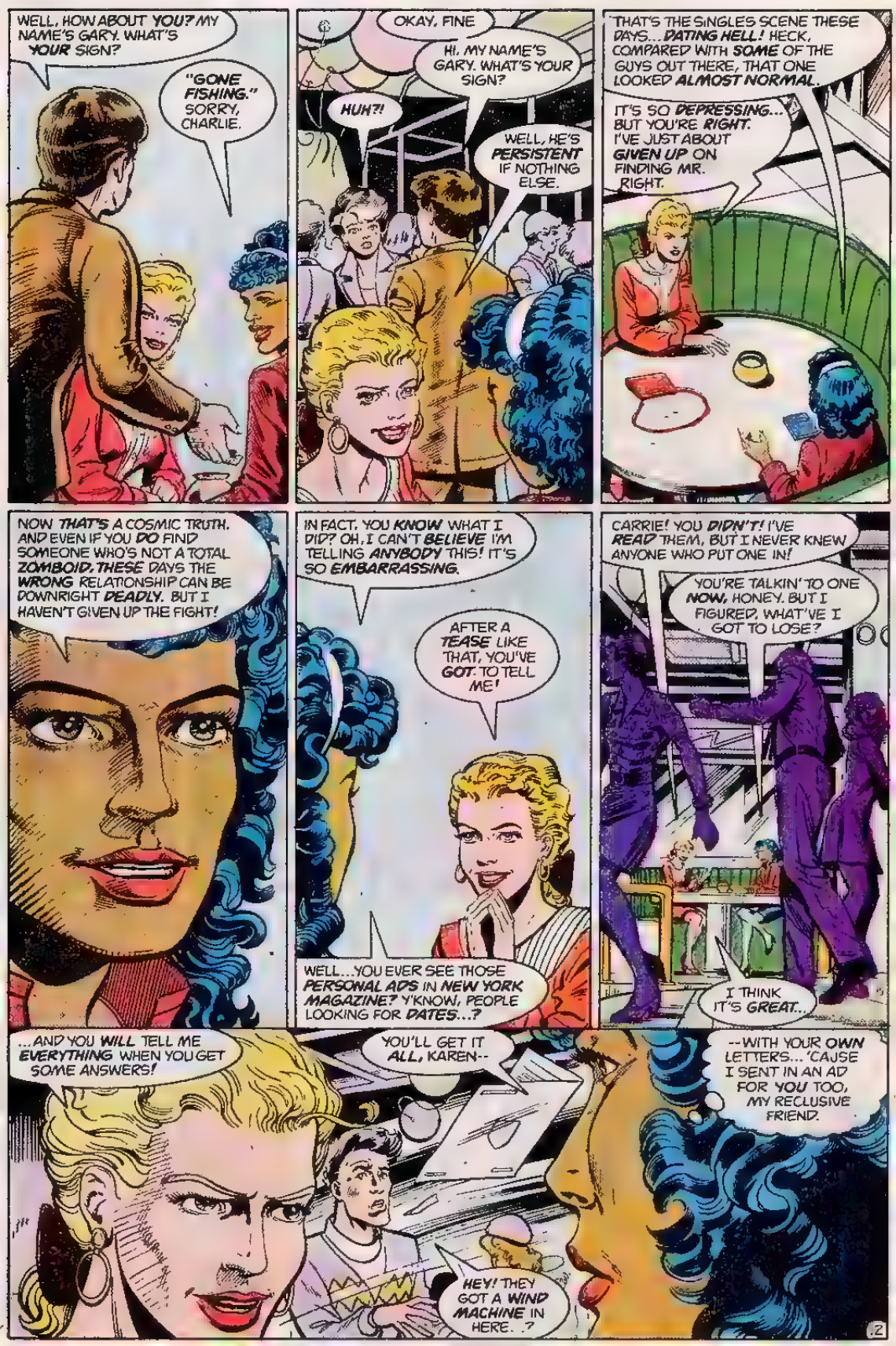

WOOF! GET A LOAD OF THIS JOINT! IT'S GOT EVERYTHING A GIRL COULD WANT--

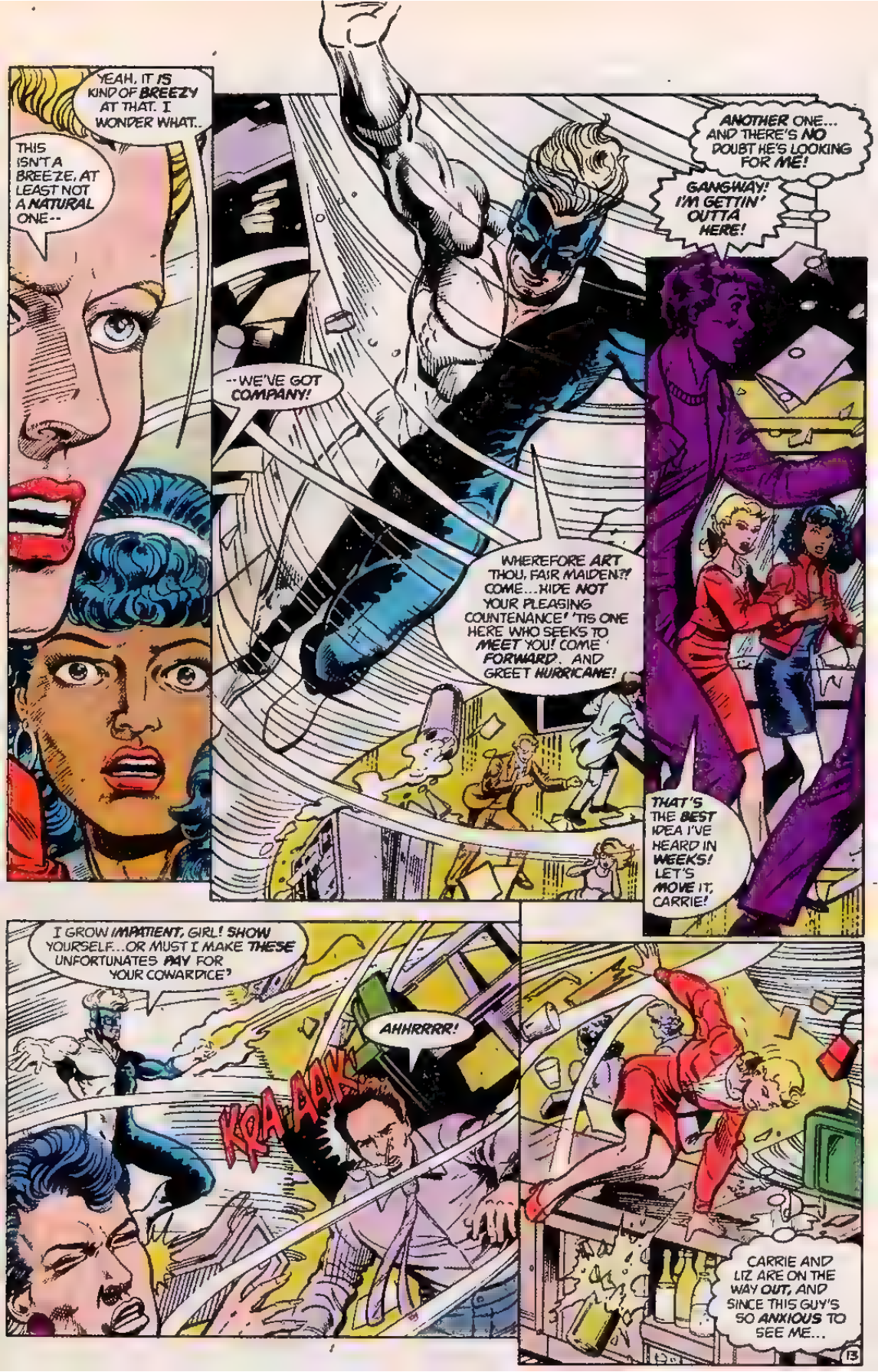
--NAMELY MEN. SEE YOU GUYS LATER.

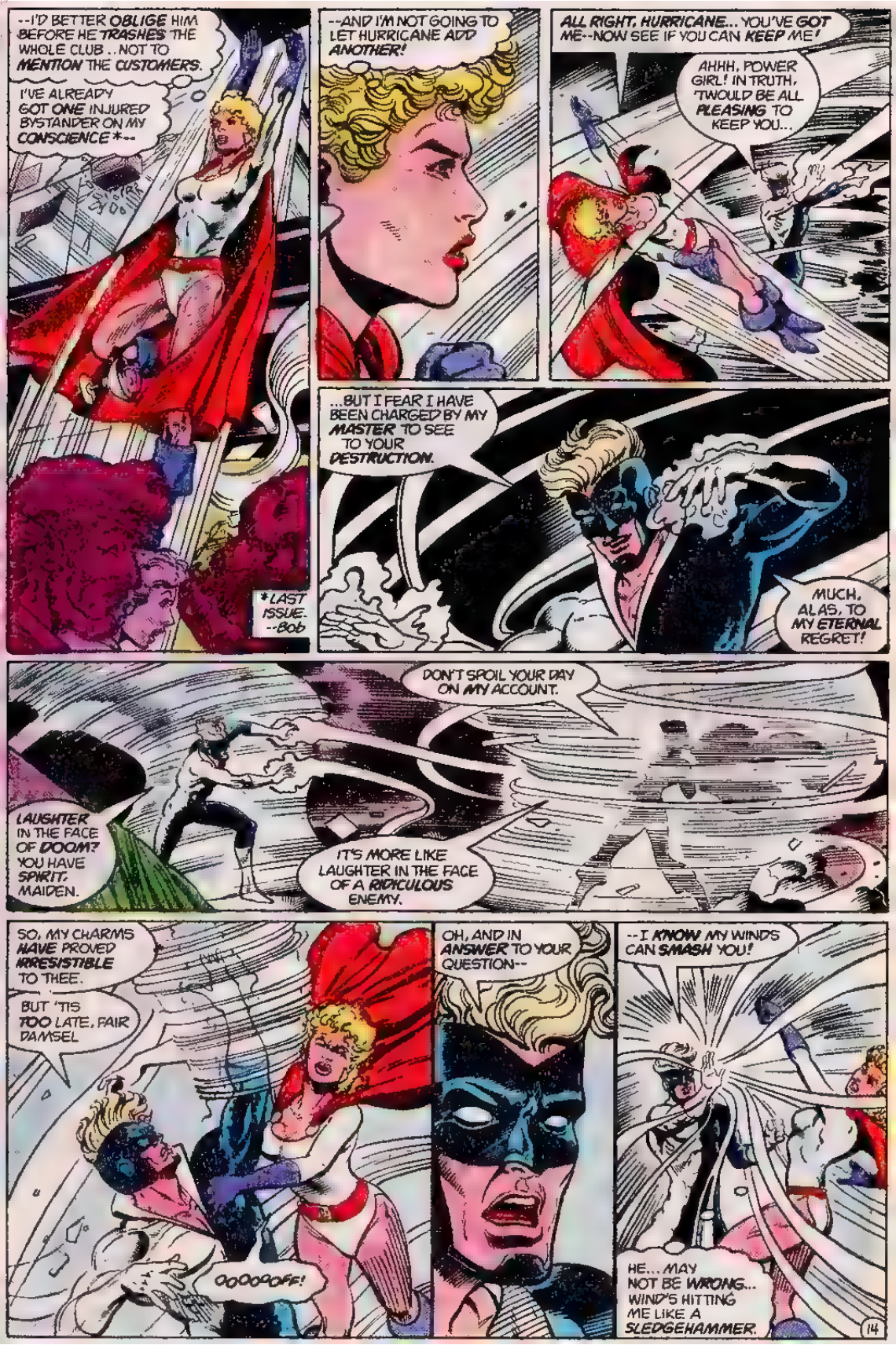

YEP, LIZ IS IN THE SPIRIT OF THINGS, ALL RIGHT
OR AT LEAST GIVING A GREAT IMPRESSION OF SOMEONE WHO IS.

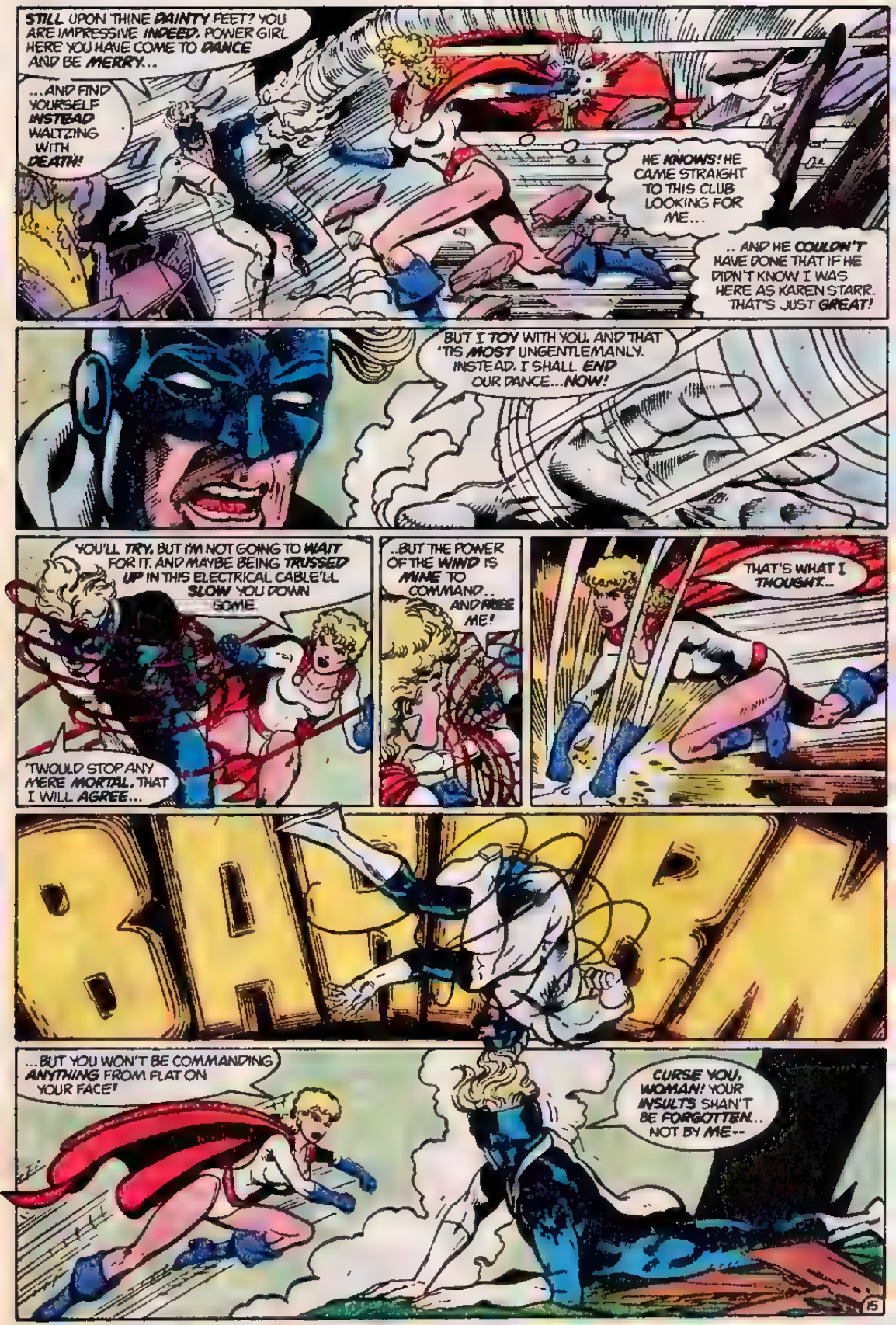
'EVENING, LADIES. MY NAME'S GARY WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?
MY... SIGN?

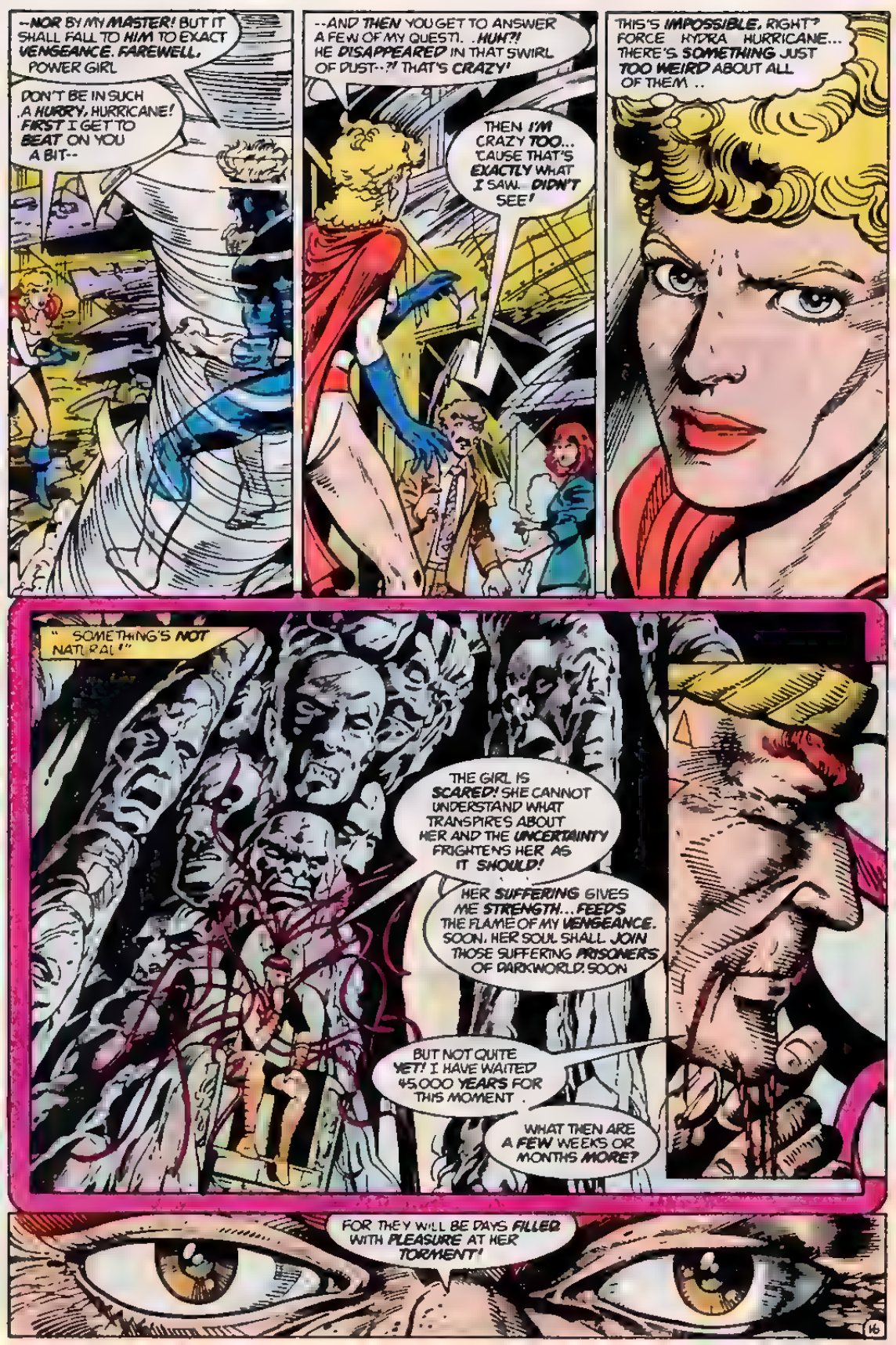
YEAH, YOU KNOW, LIKE GEMINI, VIRGO, PISCES. YOUR SIGN!
ER ...I'M REALLY NOT SURE. YOU'D BETTER CHECK WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

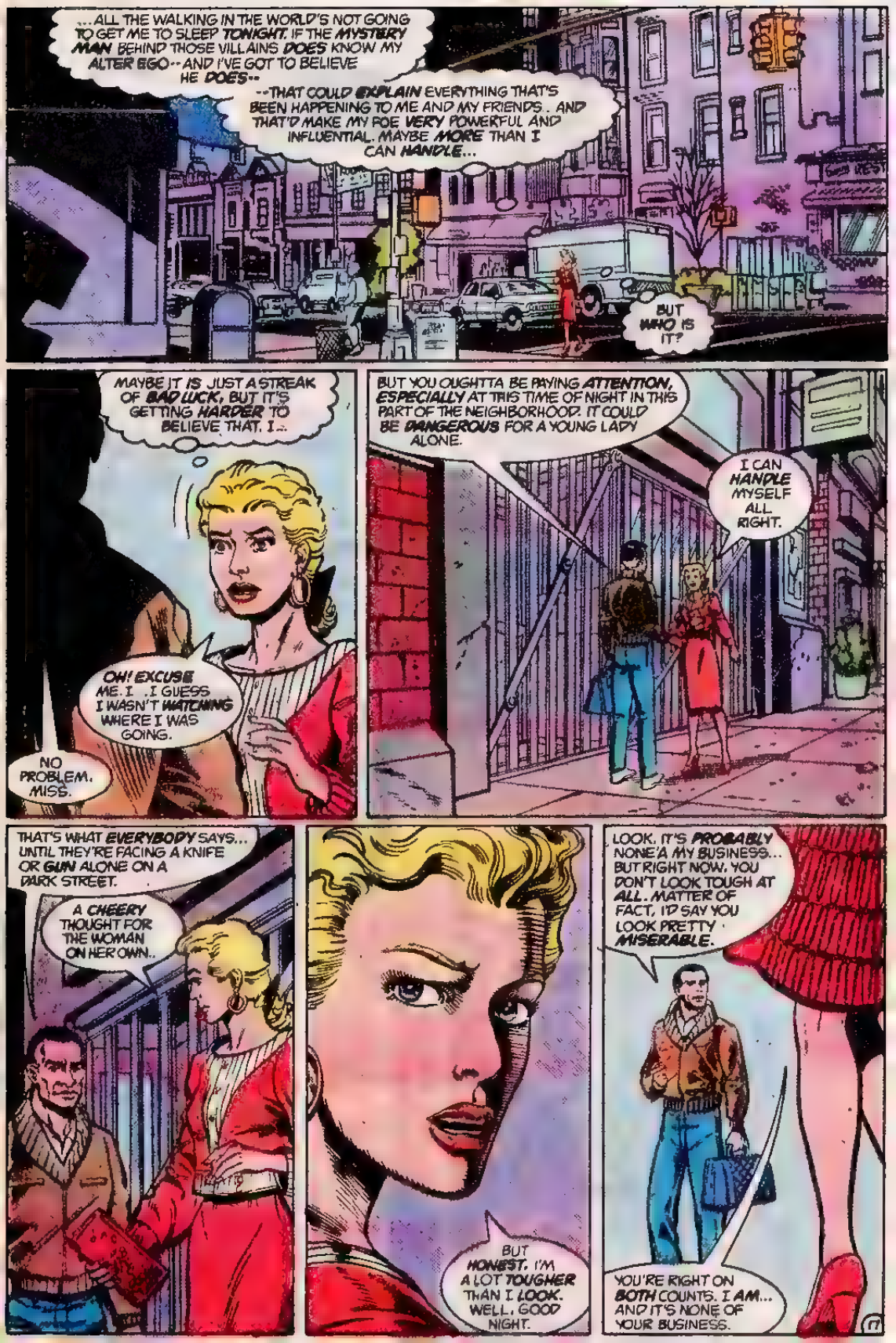

WELL, HOW ABOUT YOU? MY NAME'S GARY. WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?
"GONE FISHING." SORRY, CHARLIE.
OKAY, FINE
HI. MY NAME'S GARY. WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?
HUH?!
WELL, HE'S PERSISTENT IF NOTHING ELSE.
THAT'S THE SINGLES SCENE THESE DAYS... DATING HELL! HECK, COMPARED WITH SOME OF THE GUYS OUT THERE, THAT ONE LOOKED ALMOST NORMAL.
IT'S SO DEPRESSING... BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP ON FINDING MR. RIGHT.
NOW THAT'S A COSMIC TRUTH. AND EVEN IF YOU DO FIND SOMEONE WHO'S NOT A TOTAL ZOMBOID, THESE DAYS THE WRONG RELATIONSHIP CAN BE DOWNRIGHT DEADLY. BUT I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP THE FIGHT!
IN FACT, YOU KNOW WHAT I DID? OH, I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M TELLING ANYBODY THIS! IT'S SO EMBARRASSING.
AFTER A TEASE LIKE THAT, YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME!
WELL...YOU EVER SEE THOSE PERSONAL ADS IN NEW YORK MAGAZINE? Y'KNOW, PEOPLE LOOKING FOR DATES...?
CARRIE! YOU DIDN'T! I'VE READ THEM, BUT I NEVER KNEW ANYONE WHO PUT ONE IN!
YOU'RE TALKIN' TO ONE NOW, HONEY. BUT I FIGURED, WHAT'VE I GOT TO LOSE?
I THINK IT'S GREAT...
...AND YOU WILL TELL ME EVERYTHING WHEN YOU GET SOME ANSWERS!
YOU'LL GET IT ALL, KAREN--
--WITH YOUR OWN LETTERS... 'CAUSE I SENT IN AN AD FOR YOU TOO, MY RECLUSIVE FRIEND.
HEY! THEY GOT A WIND MACHINE IN HERE...?


YEAH, IT IS KIND OF BREEZY AT THAT. I WONDER WHAT..
THIS ISN'T A BREEZE, AT LEAST NOT A NATURAL ONE--
--WE'VE GOT COMPANY!
WHEREFORE ART THOU, FAIR MAIDEN?! COME...HIDE NOT YOUR PLEASING COUNTENANCE! 'TIS ONE HERE WHO SEEKS TO MEET YOU! COME FORWARD. AND GREET HURRICANE!
ANOTHER ONE... AND THERE'S NO DOUBT HE'S LOOKING FOR ME!
GANGWAY! I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!
THAT'S THE BEST IDEA I'VE HEARD IN WEEKS! LET'S MOVE IT, CARRIE!
I GROW IMPATIENT, GIRL! SHOW YOURSELF...OR MUST I MAKE THESE UNFORTUNATES PAY FOR YOUR COWARDICE!
AHHRRRR!
KRA-AAK!
CARRIE AND LIZ ARE ON THE WAY OUT, AND SINCE THIS GUY'S SO ANXIOUS TO SEE ME...


--I'D BETTER OBLIGE HIM BEFORE HE TRASHES THE WHOLE CLUB .. NOT TO MENTION THE CUSTOMERS.
I'VE ALREADY GOT ONE INJURED BYSTANDER ON MY CONSCIENCE *--
*LAST ISSUE. --Bob
--AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET HURRICANE ADD ANOTHER!
ALL RIGHT, HURRICANE... YOU'VE GOT ME--NOW SEE IF YOU CAN KEEP ME!
AHHH, POWER GIRL! IN TRUTH, 'TWOULD BE ALL PLEASING TO KEEP YOU...
...BUT I FEAR I HAVE BEEN CHARGED BY MY MASTER TO SEE TO YOUR DESTRUCTION.
MUCH, ALAS, TO MY ETERNAL REGRET!
DON'T SPOIL YOUR DAY ON MY ACCOUNT.
LAUGHTER IN THE FACE OF DOOM? YOU HAVE SPIRIT, MAIDEN.
IT'S MORE LIKE LAUGHTER IN THE FACE OF A RIDICULOUS ENEMY.
SO, MY CHARMS HAVE PROVED IRRESISTIBLE TO THEE.
BUT 'TIS TOO LATE, FAIR DAMSEL
OOOOOOFF!
OH, AND IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION--
--I KNOW MY WINDS CAN SMASH YOU!
HE... MAY NOT BE WRONG... WIND'S HITTING ME LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER.


STILL UPON THINE DAINTY FEET? YOU ARE IMPRESSIVE INDEED. POWER GIRL HERE YOU HAVE COME TO DANCE AND BE MERRY...
...AND FIND YOURSELF INSTEAD WALTZING WITH DEATH!
HE KNOWS! HE CAME STRAIGHT TO THIS CLUB LOOKING FOR ME...
.. AND HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT IF HE DIDN'T KNOW I WAS HERE AS KAREN STARR. THAT'S JUST GREAT!
BUT I TOY WITH YOU. AND THAT 'TIS MOST UNGENTLEMANLY. INSTEAD, I SHALL END OUR DANCE...NOW!
YOU'LL TRY. BUT I'M NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR IT. AND MAYBE BEING TRUSSED UP IN THIS ELECTRICAL CABLE'LL SLOW YOU DOWN SOME
'TWOULD STOP ANY MERE MORTAL, THAT I WILL AGREE...
..BUT THE POWER OF THE WIND IS MINE TO COMMAND... AND FREE ME!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT...
...BUT YOU WON'T BE COMMANDING ANYTHING FROM FLAT ON YOUR FACE!
CURSE YOU, WOMAN! YOUR INSULTS SHAN'T BE FORGOTTEN... NOT BY ME--


--NOR BY MY MASTER! BUT IT SHALL FALL TO HIM TO EXACT VENGEANCE. FAREWELL, POWER GIRL
DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY, HURRICANE! FIRST I GET TO BEAT ON YOU A BIT--
--AND THEN YOU GET TO ANSWER A FEW OF MY QUESTI. . HUH?! HE DISAPPEARED IN THAT SWIRL OF DUST--?! THAT'S CRAZY!
THEN I'M CRAZY TOO... 'CAUSE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I SAW. DIDN'T SEE!
THIS'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT? FORCE HYDRA HURRICANE... THERE'S SOMETHING JUST TOO WEIRD ABOUT ALL OF THEM . .
" SOMETHING'S NOT NATURAL!"
THE GIRL IS SCARED! SHE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT TRANSPIRES ABOUT HER AND THE UNCERTAINTY FRIGHTENS HER AS IT SHOULD!
HER SUFFERING GIVES ME STRENGTH... FEEDS THE FLAME OF MY VENGEANCE. SOON, HER SOUL SHALL JOIN THOSE SUFFERING PRISONERS OF DARKWORLD! SOON
BUT NOT QUITE YET! I HAVE WAITED 45,000 YEARS FOR THIS MOMENT .
WHAT THEN ARE A FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS MORE?
FOR THEY WILL BE DAYS FILLED WITH PLEASURE AT HER TORMENT!


...ALL THE WALKING IN THE WORLD'S NOT GOING TO GET ME TO SLEEP TONIGHT. IF THE MYSTERY MAN BEHIND THOSE VILLAINS DOES KNOW MY ALTER EGO--AND I'VE GOT TO BELIEVE HE DOES--
--THAT COULD EXPLAIN EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN HAPPENING TO ME AND MY FRIENDS.. AND THAT'D MAKE MY FOE VERY POWERFUL AND INFLUENTIAL. MAYBE MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE...
BUT WHO IS IT?
MAYBE IT IS JUST A STREAK OF BAD LUCK, BUT IT'S GETTING HARDER TO BELIEVE THAT. I...
OH! EXCUSE ME. I ..I GUESS I WASN'T WATCHING WHERE I WAS GOING.
NO PROBLEM, MISS.
BUT YOU OUGHTTA BE PAYING ATTENTION, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT IN THIS PART OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IT COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR A YOUNG LADY ALONE.
I CAN HANDLE MYSELF ALL RIGHT.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS... UNTIL THEY'RE FACING A KNIFE OR GUN ALONE ON A DARK STREET.
A CHEERY THOUGHT FOR THE WOMAN ON HER OWN..
BUT HONEST, I'M A LOT TOUGHER THAN I LOOK. WELL, GOOD NIGHT.
LOOK. IT'S PROBABLY NONE A MY BUSINESS... BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU DON'T LOOK TOUGH AT ALL. MATTER OF FACT, I'D SAY YOU LOOK PRETTY MISERABLE.
YOU'RE RIGHT ON BOTH COUNTS. I AM... AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

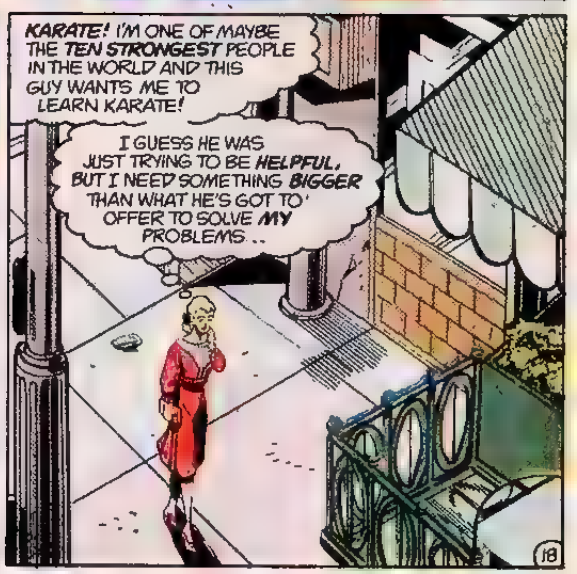
YEAH, WELL, BE THAT AS IT MAY, SAFETY AND PROTECTION ARE MY BUSINESS, AND I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING AIN'T SMART.
WHAT ARE YOU? A COP?
NOPE. I'M A MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR.

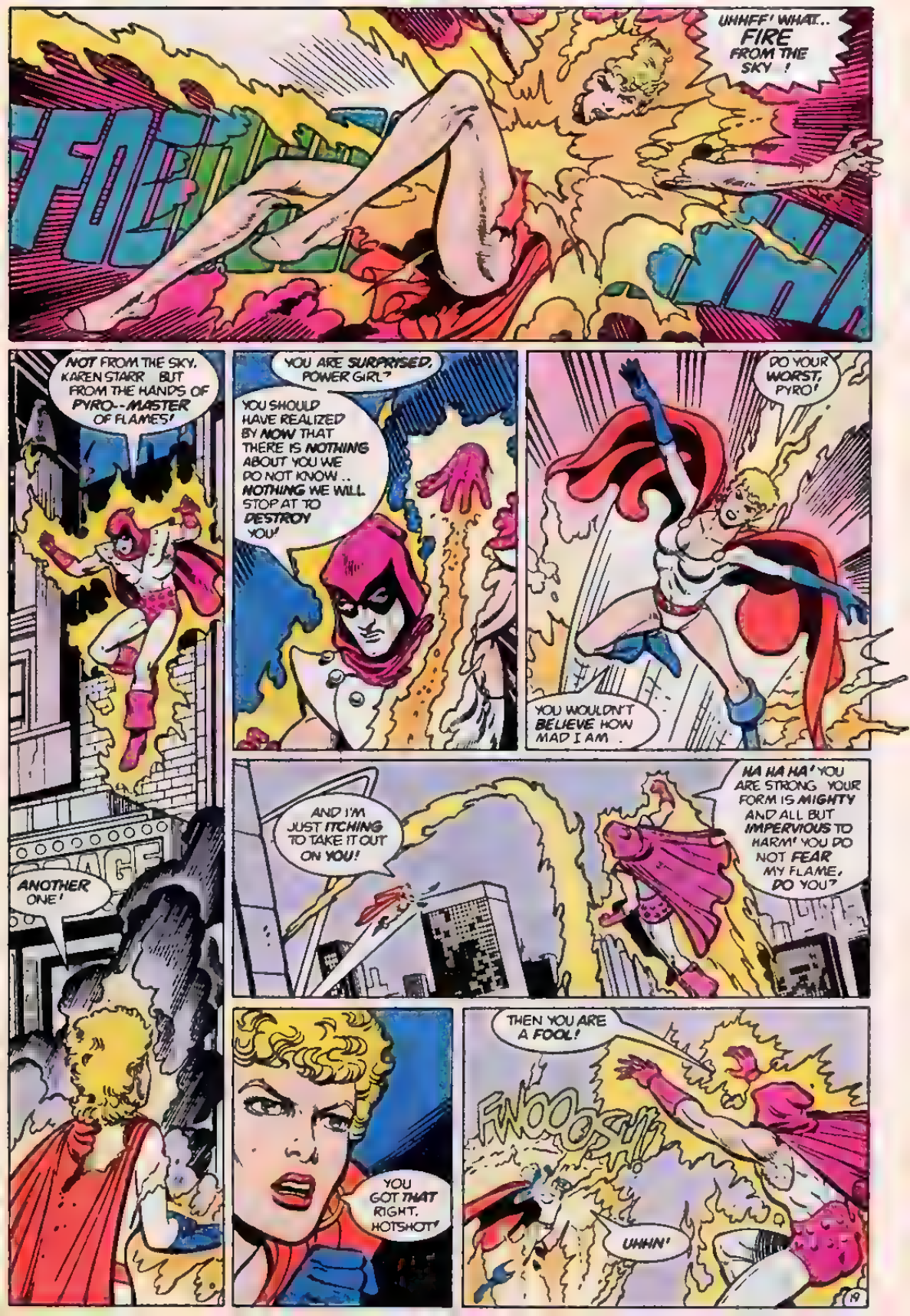
"MONGO" KREBS, 22 YEARS TEACHIN' MARINE RECRUITS HOW TO SAVE THEIR BUTTS IN HAND-TO-HAND BEHIND ME...
NOW OWNER OF THIS MARTIAL ARTS ACADEMY.

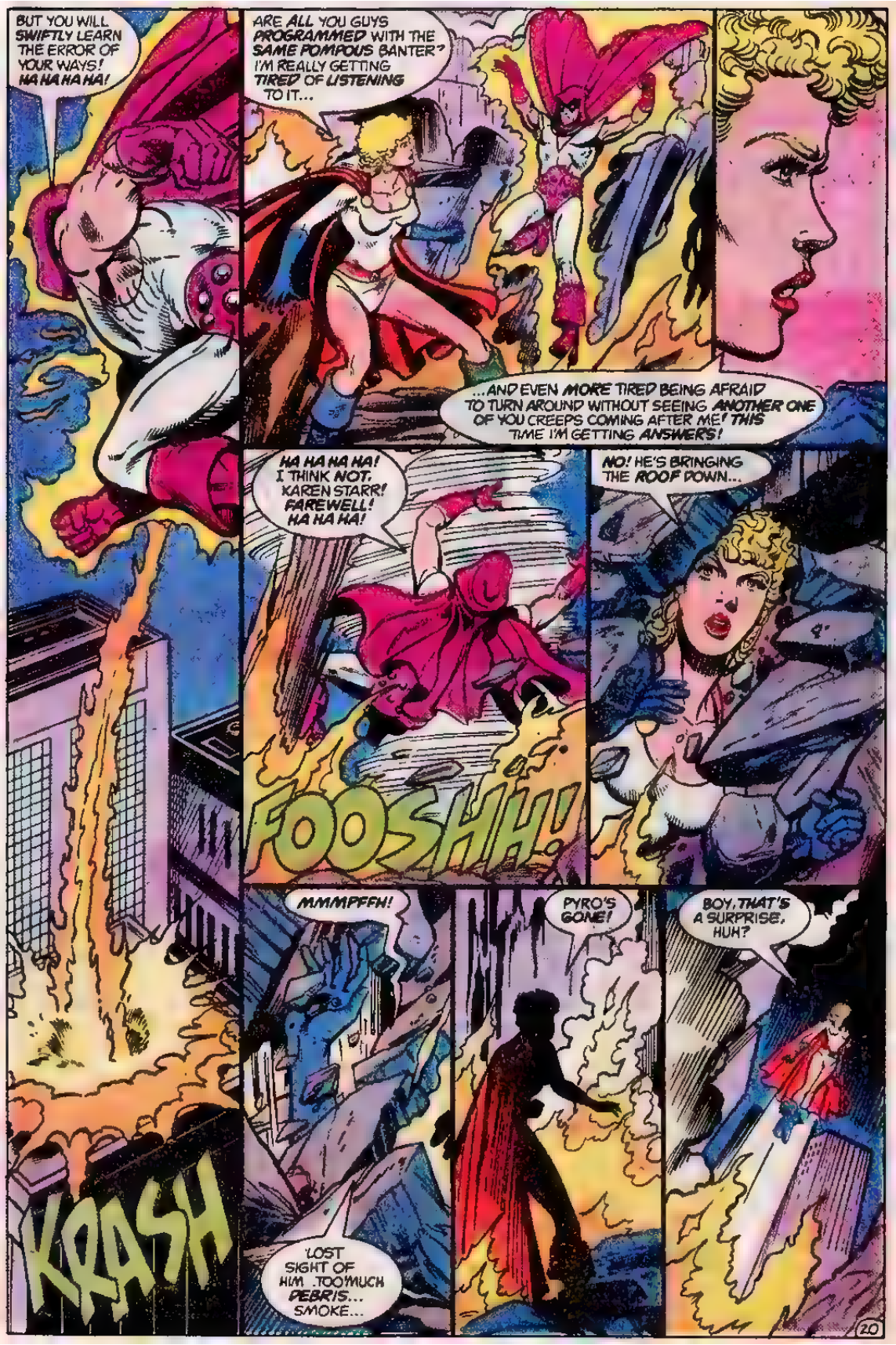
SO YOU THINK LEARNING HOW TO BREAK PIECES OF WOOD WITH MY HAND'S THE ANSWER TO MY WORRIES, HUH?
NAW. LOOK, ANY INSTRUCTOR WORTH HIS SALT'S GONNA TEACH YOU THAT KARATE'S ONLY ABOUT TWO PERCENT KICKING PEOPLE'S TAILS

WHAT IT'S REALLY ABOUT'S YOUR SPIRIT. Y'KNOW, WHAT'S INSIDE. WE TEACH YOU THE MOVES SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE 'EM.
IT'S TOO COMPLICATED TO GO INTO HERE AND NOW, BUT IF YOU EVER WANNA STOP BY THE DOJO AND TALK IT OVER...

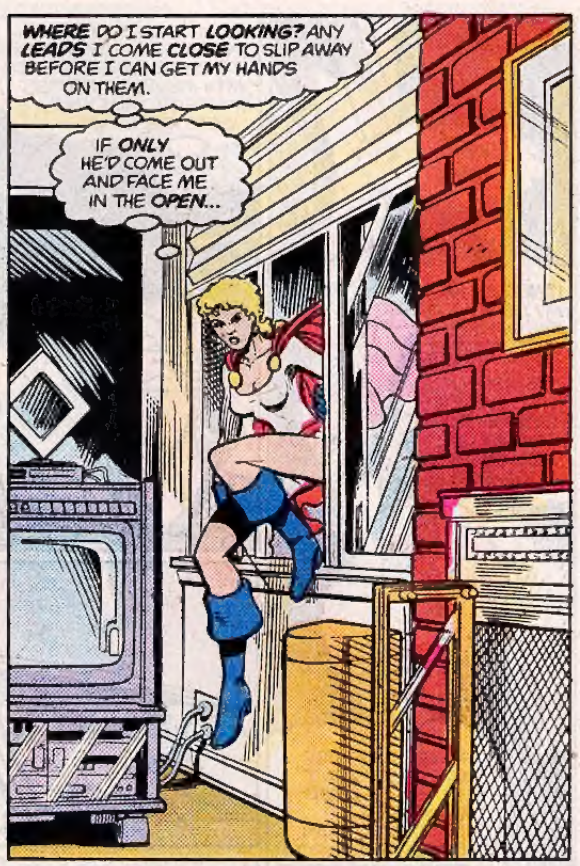
THANKS FOR THE OFFER, MR. KREBS, BUT I REALLY DON'T THINK SO. GOOD NIGHT.
G'NIGHT...
...BUT I GET THE FEELIN' I'LL BE SEEIN' YOU AGAIN REAL SOON, LADY. WHATEVER'S BUGGING YOU, YOU CAN'T CARRY IT YOURSELF FOREVER.


KARATE! I'M ONE OF MAYBE THE TEN STRONGEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD AND THIS GUY WANTS ME TO LEARN KARATE!
I GUESS HE WAS JUST TRYING TO BE HELPFUL, BUT I NEED SOMETHING BIGGER THAN WHAT HE'S GOT TO OFFER TO SOLVE MY PROBLEMS...


FOOM
UHHFF! WHAT... FIRE FROM THE SKY!
NOT FROM THE SKY, KAREN STARR BUT FROM THE HANDS OF PYRO--MASTER OF FLAMES!
ANOTHER ONE!
YOU ARE SURPRISED, POWER GIRL?
YOU SHOULD HAVE REALIZED BY NOW THAT THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT YOU WE DO NOT KNOW.. NOTHING WE WILL STOP AT TO DESTROY YOU!
DO YOUR WORST, PYRO!
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MAD I AM.
AND I'M JUST ITCHING TO TAKE IT OUT ON YOU!
HA HA HA! YOU ARE STRONG. YOUR FORM IS MIGHTY AND ALL BUT IMPERVIOUS TO HARM! YOU DO NOT FEAR MY FLAME, DO YOU?
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, HOTSHOT!
THEN YOU ARE A FOOL!
FWOOSH!!
UHHN!

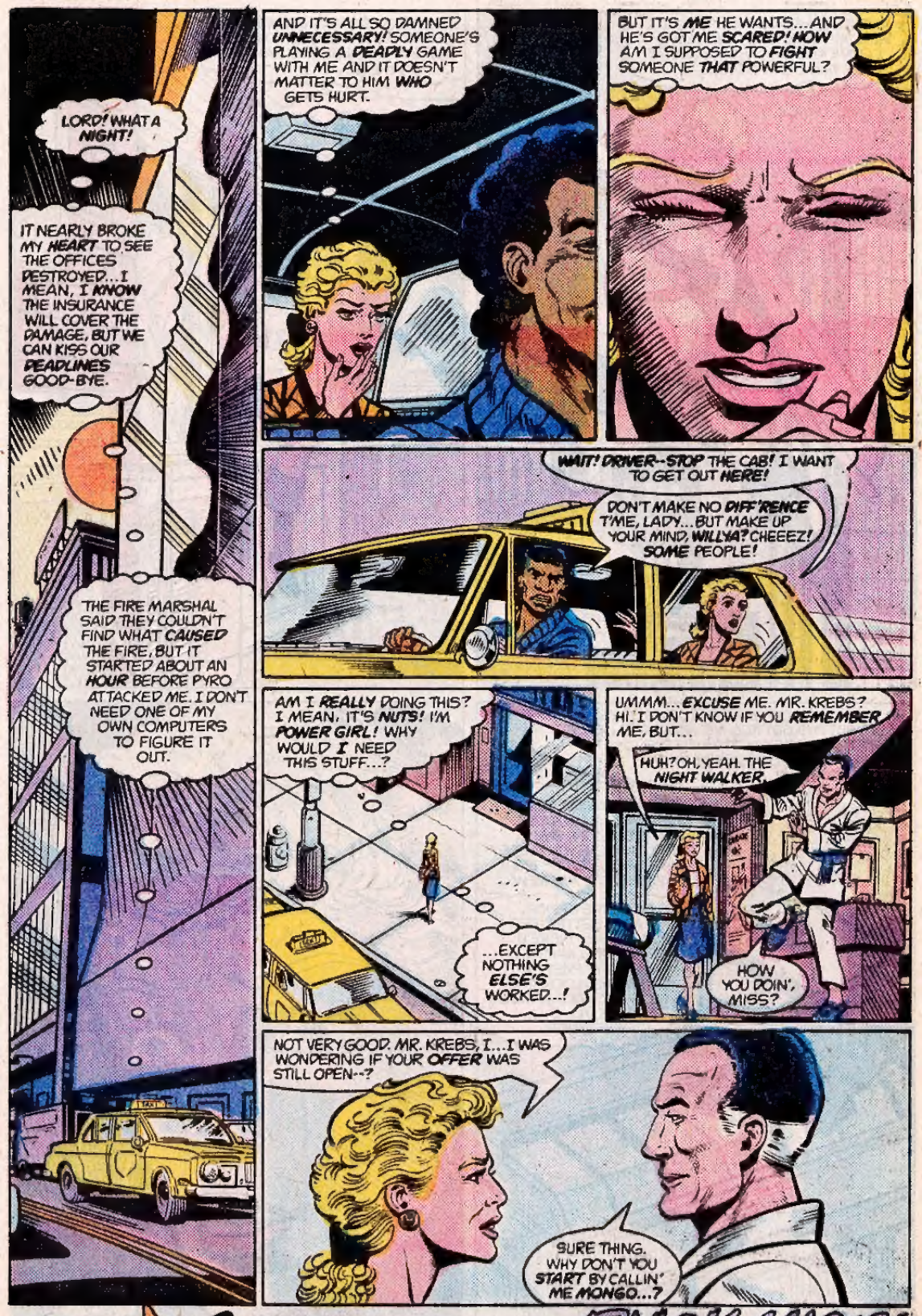

BUT YOU WILL SWIFTLY LEARN THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS! HA HA HA HA!
ARE ALL YOU GUYS PROGRAMMED WITH THE SAME POMPOUS BANTER? I'M REALLY GETTING TIRED OF LISTENING TO IT...
...AND EVEN MORE TIRED BEING AFRAID TO TURN AROUND WITHOUT SEEING ANOTHER ONE OF YOU CREEPS COMING AFTER ME! THIS TIME I'M GETTING ANSWERS!
HA HA HA HA! I THINK NOT, KAREN STARR! FAREWELL! HA HA HA!
NO! HE'S BRINGING THE ROOF DOWN...
FOOSHH!
KRASH
MMMPFFH!
LOST SIGHT OF HIM. TOO MUCH DEBRIS... SMOKE...
PYRO'S GONE!
BOY, THAT'S A SURPRISE, HUH?

IF THE IDEA BEHIND ALL THIS'S TO DRIVE ME CRAZY, IT'S WORKING! I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE...
...AND WHAT MAKES IT EVEN WORSE IS THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT!


WHERE DO I START LOOKING? ANY LEADS I COME CLOSE TO SLIP AWAY BEFORE I CAN GET MY HANDS ON THEM.
IF ONLY HE'D COME OUT AND FACE ME IN THE OPEN...

IF... I CAN "WHAT IF" UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME, BUT IT'S GETTING ME NOWHERE... EXCEPT DEEPER INTO AGGRAVATION. OH, WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT NEW HORRORS MY PHONE MESSAGES HOLD...
1. Pick up Dry Cleaning
2. Pay Phone Bill
3. Bank
Shoes Store
BEEP! HI, KAREN. THIS IS CARRIE. GIMME A CALL WHEN YOU GET IN. BYE!... BEEP!... KAREN? YOU THERE? IF YOU ARE, PICK UP THE PHONE! IT'S ANDREW...
...I'M AT THE OFFICE, AND YOU'D BETTER GET DOWN HERE. THERE'S BEEN A FIRE, KAREN... DAMAGE IS PRETTY EXTENSIVE. LOOK, THE FIRE MARSHAL'S WAITING FOR ME. I'LL CALL YOU LATER...
SONARIC...

OH... NO!



NEXT ISSUE: POWER GIRL VERSUS BLACK MAGIC!

POWER GIRL

DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103
Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Dick Giordano, Vice Pres.-Executive Editor
Robert Greenberger, Editor
Richard Bruning, Art Director
Terri Cunningham, Mgr.-Editorial Admin.
Pat Bastienne, Mgr.-Editorial Coordinator
Bob Rozakis, Production Director
Paul Levitz, Executive Vice President
Joe Orlando, Vice Pres.-Creative Director
Bruce Bristow, Marketing Director
Matthew Ragone, Circulation Director
Patrick Caldon, Controller
L-3173

Welcome to our second issue, the one where we tap dance for two pages before the mail comes streaming in. Fortunately, we spent last month talking about Power Girl herself, saving the traditional creator bios until now. Grab a drink, settle back in your chair and see how it's all done.

* * * * *

Paul Kupperberg has had an unusual relationship with Power Girl over the years—one he has been reluctant to discuss in front of trained psychiatric help. Actually, Paul has never written the adventures of Power Girl prior to revising her back story in SECRET ORIGINS #11. But once we amended her life to that of Arion, Lord High Mage of Atlantis, it seems that Paul has been involved with her for years.

Born in 1955 in Brooklyn, Paul was a long-time comics fan and fate saw to it that he met fellow fan Paul Levitz. With a few other area fans, they all found their way into comics fandom and were part of a core group of New York-based comics fans that were dominant in the early 1970s. When Mr. Levitz inherited *The Comic Reader*, one of the most respected fanzines in the history of fandom, Mr. Kupperberg started writing for it and helped Paul produce it on schedule. Meantime, *TCR* expanded operations and Mr. Kupperberg found himself editing a spin-off zine called *Etc.*, which lasted a handful of issues.

During that time, both Pauls made the acquaintance of professionals at DC and Marvel, leading them to gainful employment. Mr. Levitz started off as Joe Orlando's assistant editor, while Mr. Kupperberg went on to try his hand at writing comics stories.

Back in the 1970s, many publishers still had anthology comics, which were the best way for fledgling talent to break into the business. Paul managed to sell his first story to Charlton's *Scary Tales* #3, which happened to have art by another newcomer, a guy named Mike Zeck.

Paul continued to write for Charlton until Denny O'Neil called and invited him to contribute stories to SUPERMAN FAMILY. From there, Paul has gone on to write for nearly every title the company has published. Of all the assignments Paul has had, a few are especially noteworthy. There was his very first series, AQUAMAN; the reintroduction of the DOOM PATROL in SHOWCASE #94; collaborating with Mr. Levitz on SHOWCASE #100; helping to introduce the Ambush Bug to the DC Universe; DC's first mini-series, THE WORLD OF KRYPTON; a stint on the Superman comic strip; his first creation, ARION, and his controversial run on VIGILANTE.

When he hasn't written comics, Paul has also edited varying things including a run on *Video Action* and has handled DC's publicity on occasion. Paul has also written two Spider-Man novels that saw print in the late 1970s.

These days, Paul is proudest of seeing the DOOM PATROL back in print and contributing to other series, including THE PHANTOM STRANGER (due to reappear as a rotating feature in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY), POWER GIRL and his latest creation, CHECKMATE!

Currently residing in Connecticut, Paul has learned about the joys of the Macintosh and commuting on Metro-North.

* * * * *

Richard Renick Hoberg. Rick to you and me, was born in Belton, TX in 1952. Shortly after birth, the Hoberg family relocated to Southern California, where Rick grew up and remains to this day. Like most everyone else in this business, Rick was a big comic book fan, but he also devoured a steady diet of Warner Brothers cartoons. All this visual stimulation led Rick to creating his own comics where he wrote, drew and lettered everything on his own—including letter columns.

During his childhood years, Rick continued to draw, refining his style and studying everything he could until it was time to formalize his artistic education. He took art courses in high school and college (graduating with a BA in fine arts) and Rick found himself looking for a way to get into the comics business.

Luck smiled on young Rick and he landed a prestigious job, assisting the late Russ Manning. During the mid-1970s, Manning was editing Tarzan comics for the European markets and Rick got to draw the Ape Man under the eyes of a master.

During this time, the Southern California comics boomlet was going on as more and more professionals relocated to the area. Rick's work caught the attention of Roy Thomas, who convinced Rick to try his hand at Marvel on a few assignments. These few—*Savage Sword of Conan*, *What If?* and *The Invaders*—turned out to be a lot and chance had Rick do an issue of *Star Wars*, which became a regular assignment.

Still, the love of animation never left Rick's blood and he was offered a chance to work at Hanna-Barbera. Rick took the plunge, figuring that the experience could only be positive, and it was. Just as Rick benefited from working with Russ Manning, now he had the guidance of Doug Wildey, one of the best artists in any business. Rick went on to work on many notable action-adventure series featuring the likes of Zorro, the Lone Ranger, Thundarr and

LIZ JOYCE

MONGO KREBS

even our own Super Friends.

Manning called Rick once again, this time to work with him on the *Star Wars* comic strip. Rick leaped at the chance and did numerous other art assignments for Lucasfilm during the next year. From there, Rick returned to animation and comics. He has successfully divided his time between storyboarding projects such as *Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends, The Incredible Hulk* and *G.I. Joe* (the original animated mini-series) and drawing comics, mostly for DC. His assignments here have been varied from the humorous adventures of CAPTAIN CARROT to historical action in ALL-STAR SQUADRON to the moody streets of Gotham City in BATMAN. He has also co-created and pencils a book for Hero Comics, *Eternity Smith*.

Rick and Paul had worked once before, on a Superman-Supergirl tale in DC COMICS PRESENTS #86, and a chance meeting at last summer's San Diego Comic Convention got them to talking. Rick got really excited about Power Girl and signed on. The character designs seen on these pages are from Rick's original plans for the series' look. As you can see, only a few modifications were made.

* * * * *

Arne Starr, like the others on this page, grew up with a keen interest in comics. Born in 1954, the Queens native says he was hooked by the four-color adventures of Superman, Batman and others early on. Like Rick, the visual side of life got Arne excited and he drew whenever he could.

There was a technical program offered at the Newtown High School, so Arne signed on and was perfecting his budding talent but rapidly got bored by the details, so he switched his interests to art. After some practice and study, Arne received a scholarship to study at NY-Phoenix Schools of Design, now part of the famous Pratt Institute. One of Arne's teachers was Cliff Young, a noted mural and watercolor artist.

CARRIE PHILLIPS

Young taught Arne how to ink using a brush, and Young fondly recalled his days as an inker for DC on such features as Vigilante and Green Arrow.

During the third and last year of his program, Arne had a visiting lecturer for a course entitled "Continuity Illustration"—the lecturer being Dick Giordano. After graduating, Arne went on to commercial art and did numerous jobs for many houses in the New York-Connecticut area. His skills branched out to include art direction and mechanical pasteups for places such as Scholastic and Xerox Publications.

By the beginning of the 1980s, Arne had renewed his interest in comics and attended a workshop on comics taught by Giordano and Frank McLaughlin. The others in the class included Mike DeCarlo, Bill Collins, Tod Smith and Steve Montano. Not a bad graduating class. As a result of the classes, Arne began doing background work for both McLaughlin and Giordano. His background work moved to some foreground work as well and he began receiving inking credit on projects like V #17-18 and DC CHALLENGE #8 (pencilled by Rick, just to keep it all straight). Arne then moved on to co-ink LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES with Mike DeCarlo from issues #22-45.

Barbara Randall gave Arne his big break by letting him solo on two issues of BOOSTER GOLD. While waiting for other such opportunities, Arne continued doing some commercial work and added airbrush paintings to his bag of tricks. One of his most recent paintings was a rendition of John Byrne's MAN OF STEEL #1 cover for the Ballantine Books edition of that acclaimed mini-series.

Arne remains a tried and true comics fan, but his interests also include science fiction, where he is a big *Star Trek* fan. When he heard I was editing a mini-series based on the new television show, he pestered me until we agreed to let him co-ink the book with the wonderful Carlos Garzon. When Arne gave up his commercial work, he was ready for more solo work, so here he is on POWER GIRL.

Arne also lives in Connecticut with his wife and son.

* * * * *

And those are our top three talents on this book. Fortunately, we have also been benefited from the dedicated lettering of fellow *Star Trek* fan (and mini-series letterer) **Bob Pinaha**. Bob's speed and diligence have made him an invaluable member of our team. Colorist **Julianna Ferriter** has picked up POWER GIRL as her first DC mini-series, and she appreciates the freedom of the settings and characters so she can make an artistic contribution. We think the results are pretty neat.

* * * * *

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Next month, things go from bad to worse as Force breaks free from Belle Reve, the Weaver makes himself known and Power Girl is on the edge of losing her cool. Can even the teachings of Mongo Krebs keep her steady and hey, what does the Phantom Stranger have to do with all this? Guess you'll just have to show up in a month and find out. By then, we'll run mail on the first issue from a handful of letterhacks who received preview peeks at the mini-series.

Meantime, also on sale this week is the final issue of the STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION mini-series, with a visit to a mythical planet courtesy of Mike Carlin, Pablo Marcos, Carlos Garzon, Arne Starr, Bob Pinaha and Carl Gafford. Also, check out CHECKMATE! and DOOM PATROL with stories by Paul, just so we can properly cross-plug most of the DC Universe.

Drop us a line, let us know how we're doing and until next time, keep smiling!

—Bob Greenberger